

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Retail Access Optimization Initiative

Docket No. N2011-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING CONCERNING
NON-INTERVENOR FILINGS AND OTHER PROCEDURAL MATTERS

(Issued August 19, 2011)

Comments filed online. In the course of this proceeding the Commission has received, and is likely to continue to receive via its filing online system, comments or statements of views from parties that have not formally intervened.¹

Under Commission rules, persons may participate in this proceeding in three ways. First, a person may formally intervene as a full participant in the docketed proceeding. See Rule 3001.20. Second, parties may intervene as a limited participant by setting forth the nature and extent of their interest. See Rule 3001.20(a). Finally, persons may offer an informal expression of views by contacting the Commission by letter or through its Office of Public Affairs and Government Relations. See rule 3001.20(b).

To the extent that comments or statements filed via the filing online system do not comport with formal intervention requirements or informal expression of views channels of submission, such filings will be construed as a notice of intervention (and if beyond the deadline, a motion for intervention beyond the deadline) as a limited intervenor pursuant to rule 3001.20a. The contents of statements will be considered as

¹ See, e.g. Filing by Iowans for Post Office Services, filed August 16, 2011.

a statement of views or a legal brief. The Commission will not consider such filings as evidence and will not rely upon any factual representations contained therein. Insofar as such comments or statements make arguments concerning evidence in the record, the Commission will consider those arguments. This limited accommodation will not prejudice any party to the proceeding and is designed to accommodate the limited interest of persons wishing to submit their arguments about the evidence for the record.

Any party that wishes to oppose the intervention of limited participators may do so within 10 days of the filings pursuant to rule 3001.20a(b). Any party that wishes to oppose the intervention of limited participator “Iowans for Post Office Services” may do so within 10 days of this ruling.

The Commission recognizes the value of participation by parties with a diverse set of viewpoints, and this ruling is an attempt to accommodate participation by parties making the effort to utilize the filing online system.

Outstanding motions. Two motions for late acceptance filed by the Postal Service are currently outstanding.² Granting the motions will not prejudice any party. As such, both motions are granted.

² Motion of the United States Postal Service for Late Acceptance of Filing of Objections to Interrogatories, and Motion of the United States Postal Service for Late Acceptance of Filing of Responses to Interrogatories PR/USPS-T1-10 and T1-13, both filed August 15, 2011

RULING

1. Comments, letters and statements of views received in Docket No. N2011-1 via the Commission's filing online system shall be treated as a notice of intervention as a limited participant consistent with the body of this Ruling. Parties may object to the limited intervention of "Iowans for Post Office Services" until August 29, 2011.
2. The Postal Services motions for late acceptance, titled "Motion of the United States Postal Service for Late Acceptance of Filing of Objections to Interrogatories," and "Motion of the United States Postal Service for Late Acceptance of filing of Responses to Interrogatories PR/USPS-T1-10 and T1-13," both filed August 15, 2011, are granted.

Ruth Y. Goldway
Presiding Officer